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ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LESS DEVELOPED AREAS

SUMMARY

Agenda Item: D.14

France

LOW-COST HOUSING

By G. BLACHERE,
Director of the C.S.T.B.

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LOW-COST HOUSING (POOR FORMER HOUSING IN NORTH AFRICA)

By
G. BLACHERE, DIRECTOR OF THE C.S.T.B.

In a very general sense there are two population categories whose income level does not permit them to live in houses of a standard enjoyed by the normal income-level population group.

1. These are families whose head has no fixed employment, of the type who live at present in improvised dwellings at the edges of the towns, agricultural workers and very small landowners who live in huts or shacks grouped in villages or otherwise.

   For these families, whose cash income is virtually nil, or in any case lower than the essential minimum, the best solution is the Castor or self-help system.

2. Families which have a very small income equal to or barely above the essential minimum. These are families whose head has a permanent job as a workman or minor clerk or official.

   For these families, the answer lies in very low-cost housing. They normally pay rent.

   The Castor type of building, or a very low-cost renting scheme, is a temporary solution which can be employed as long as the average income of a population group remains very low. A temporary solution of this kind is justified by the quality of the results which can be obtained.

   In planning very low-cost housing, the whole range of human requirements must be taken into consideration and assessed in regard to which of these factors an economy can be effected.

   The methods employable for the different parts of the building are reviewed. Attention is drawn to the classic dangers which should be avoided, and mention is made of town planning considerations which are particular to this type of housing estate.

S - 346 E - Nov.1962 - 1,600